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NECESSITY OF ENDING THE ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL EMBARGO IMPOSED BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AGAINST CUBA

Letter dated 20 March 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the Declaration from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cuba, dated 19 March 1996 (see annex). I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 27 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Pedro NUÑEZ MOSQUERA
Ambassador
Deputy Permanent Representative

* A/51/50.

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ANNEX

Declaration dated 19 March 1996 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The adoption by the United States Congress and the signing by the President of that country of the so-called "Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act" is essentially an act of aggression against the Cuban nation. It is yet another attempt at imposing on Cuba the hegemonistic and expansionist wishes that persist among powerful groups in the United States.

The United States Government is thereby manifesting very clearly its disregard for the norms that govern international law and coexistence. The attempt by the United States to legislate from afar, in English and using its organs of Government, the destiny and future of the Cuban nation is a dangerous assault on such cardinal principles as respect for sovereignty, independence and self-determination.

The aim is clear: it is to punish Cuba for seeking tenaciously to determine freely, sovereignly and independently its own political, economic and social organization; for securing for its people a future of justice, free from foreign interference and petty interests such as those which, for more than 60 years, controlled the country under the protection of United States. It is the latest effort to destroy the Cuban revolution, a desperate attempt which, as the Act itself reveals, they have been pursuing ever since 1 January 1959.

This action by the United States administration is also an assault on the international community as a whole and, in fact, it is tantamount to an attempt at world government; Cuba has been uttering timely warnings about this. The aim is to bring the weight of United States law to bear on third countries and to compel Governments, citizens and private entities of sovereign States to join in the policy of economic blockade against Cuba, a policy which the international community has consistently repudiated and condemned.

It demonstrates the utmost disregard for international public opinion and the wishes of the overwhelming majority of sovereign and independent States. The provisions of this legal instrument are contrary to important rules of international trade and of the organizations that regulate that essential activity among nations.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cuba emphatically rejects this new aggressive act of the Government of the United States. The attempt to starve the Cuban people into submission will fail, as have all other hostile efforts which have been directed against the Cuban revolution over the past 37 years and more. Cuba is resolutely determined to defend its sovereignty, independence and self-determination and it knows that it has justice and truth on its side.

Cuba is showing encouraging signs of economic recovery and they will not be reversed or slowed by the promulgation and implementation of that act. The strategy we have been following in recent years in order to survive economically

and to resume the path of development will continue to expand, and Cuba's economic ties with the world will continue to grow stronger.

While rejecting all attempts at foreign interference and imposition, Cuba emphasizes that it seeks to live at peace with all countries of the world on the basis of respect and equality. That is what the Cuban people want and they will not be deterred from their goal.

As the Cuban Government has said, there is no turning back from the road on which the revolution embarked on 1 January 1959.